

# 2-25 AVN REGIMENT

*"Lightning Assault"*



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## Commander's Corner

Aloha Diamond Head soldiers and families! It has been another couple of great months in the Task Force with soldiers of all ranks doing great things to make the unit better and prepare for our mission. I am particularly proud of SGT Williams of Bravo Company who won the first ever Diamond Head "Top Gun" award with a tremendous performance on our recent door gunnery exercise. SGT Williams had only been in the unit a little over 2 months before earning the Top Gun honors. He reminds me that, although we have lost a lot of our experienced veterans, the new soldiers arriving daily bring a wealth of experience, talent, and enthusiasm from across the Army and our great Nation. Together with our own Afghanistan Veterans, we are forging a strong team that will be ready for the challenges ahead.

Our Family Readiness group continues to do great things. This month they are sponsoring a fun and challenging team building event on the leadership reaction course. This course is normally restricted to soldiers but CPT Yiengst and the HHC team cleared the way for our spouses to take on the course which consists of a series of puzzles that require teamwork and creativity to solve. The event will be on 14 OCT at 10:00 AM on Schofield barracks. Contact your company FRG leaders for all the details. I hope to see a lot of you out there on the 14th.

Thank you for everything you all do to make Task Force Diamond Head a family and a great unit.

LTC Tate  
Wings of Lightning, Diamondhead!

## From the FRG Leader

Hi Everyone,

For this newsletter I went "picture crazy"!!! A picture is worth a thousand words, and these pictures say a lot about all the fun that we have been having at battalion events!! I want to first thank everyone that has helped make them great, and let you all know that I hope you continue to stay involved with our up-and-coming holiday season festivities. Please encourage more folks to get involved; maybe bring a friend that hasn't been active. Help make our battalion strong and rich with camaraderie and good times that we can all share and remember!!!

The following shots are of recent changes of command, a "Battalion Beach Day" (where some horses even joined in on the swimming fun), photos of everyone who attended the Chaplin-sponsored "Marriage Retreat" on the Big Island (which was a wonderfully enriching event, where several couples even renewed their wedding vows), hail and farewell gatherings, and an airport-greeting of a newly arrived family too!!!

I hope you all enjoy seeing these photos, and please feel free to forward any photos to either myself or Mrs. Cole for sharing them in

*(Continued on page 2)*

**Happy Halloween**



## From the FRG Leader Cont'd

(Continued from page 1)

our next newsletter. With the Holidays approaching, the FRG Steering Committee is planning some great events (which you will be hearing about very soon) to celebrate the season. So, come on out and join in on the fun!!! Bring your camera and capture some special moments to share with our battalion ohana!!

Take care, be safe, and enjoy the coming season!!!

Aloha,  
Bev



*Beach Day*





## Wings of Lightning Photo Gallery



*The Tropic Lightning Team*



Tropic Lightning  
Dragon Boat Racing



*BN Hails &  
Farewells*



## A Co Blackjacks

Aloha Friends of the Blackjacks,

This quarter has been very busy and productive for Alpha Company. We continue to push aircraft through the RESET program, while training new aviators and crew chiefs. Recovery also remains a constant as our shipping containers slowly trickle in from their around the world journey back to Hawaii. Although we are busy the payoff has been tremendous. Getting our Soldiers trained and into vital schools is paying huge dividends. Recently, 1LT Mi-skowski, 1st Platoon Leader, and SPC Brokaw, 2nd Platoon Crew Chief, successfully completed the 25th Infantry Division (Light) Air Assault School. These two great Soldiers were put through the rigors of this physically and mentally demanding 10-day course. Their successful completion of this training adds to the unit's combat capabilities and reflects great credit upon themselves. They proudly wear their Air Assault wings on their chest and are well deserved. Congrats to both of them.

Many of the crew chiefs have been cycling through the Primary Leadership Development Course (PLDC), a necessary course in the development of our Army's Non-Commissioned Officer Corps. The following Blackjack's that have successfully completed PLDC are: SGT Maxey, SGT Wilsford, SGT Tonne and SGT Hoffert. Congrats to these great Blackjack NCOs! Job well done! SGT Fyffe and SPC Stefanik are currently in the course and we wish them the best of luck. I'm sure they will be successful and carry on the great traditions of the NCO Corps.

The Blackjacks have been blessed with some well deserved promotions this quarter. The following Blackjacks were promoted on 1 September 2005: CPT Ewing, SGT Tonne, SGT Cornett. The following Blackjacks were promoted on 1 August 2005: SGT Wilsford, SGT Fyffe and SGT Wattles. All of these promotions are well deserved and reflects the hard work, dedication and tremendous potential of these great Soldiers. Congratulations to each and every one of you!!! Congratulations also go out to CW3 Grady who was selected for promotion to CW4!! Way to go!!!

The summer months always bring personnel moves and this summer is no different. The Blackjacks recently said farewell to one of our most experienced NCOs and crew chiefs. SGT Garfield left the Army and returned to his hometown in Southern California. We wish SGT Garfield

all the best, he will truly be missed. The Blackjacks recently found out that they will be losing one of its standard bearers. SFC Luna, 1st Platoon Sergeant, has been selected for assignment at HQs, Department of the Army, where he will serve as the Assignments Officer for all of the 15Ts in the Army. It will be tough to lose SFC Luna, but the Army, and Aviation Branch, will be a better place having him at the helm of assigning UH-60 Maintainers around the Army. The Blackjacks have also been blessed with some much needed additions to the team. SSG Milner, who joins the team from Ft Belvoir, Virginia, will take over 1st Platoon from SFC Luna. CW2 Honea and his wife join the Blackjacks from a tour in South Korea and has quickly jumped into the swing of things. 2LT Gates and his wife are right out of flight school and will be acting as an Executive Officer as he begins his progression. I would like to welcome all of our new Blackjacks and I look forward to the coming months together.

Lynn wanted to pass on her thanks to the Soldiers and spouses that attended the last FRG meeting at the Tropics. It was great to see some new faces and as always those who are active participants. The FRG continues to work towards increasing participation at all levels. It's important to remember that the FRG can only be as strong as the participants make it, and Family Readiness is crucial to maintaining combat readiness. The "Lady Blackjacks" social group continues to plan events on a monthly basis and is always open to more participants. A big "Lady Blackjack" thank you goes out to Jessica for hosting September's social, as well as to the ladies who have volunteered to host future socials. Way to go ladies, you're awesome!

In closing, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the great Soldiers of Alpha Company. It continues to be a tremendous pleasure and honor to serve as your commander. You are all tremendous individuals and your hard work and dedication are truly inspirational.

*Blackjacks!*

*CPT Onderko  
Blackjack 6*



*Beth Ewing pins on her husband's (John Ewing) new CPT's bars.*



*SGT James Cornett receives his Sergeant stripes from CPT Onderko and his wife Amy*



## B/214 Hillclimbers

Aloha everyone. My name is CPT Sines and for those of you who do not know me, I am the new commander of B/214<sup>th</sup> Aviation Regiment. My wife and I will be the Family Readiness Group Leaders and are excited to set up many fun, educational and useful events for you, the family members and your spouses. We are also looking for some individuals who would also like to assist her and be an integral part of the company's family readiness group. Feel free to contact either of us if you are interested.

As most of you already have heard, another deployment is in our future. We want to ensure all soldiers and family members are fully prepared if their loved one does deploy. Just a reminder, that our FRG plays a large role even when we are not deployed. Our goal is to have fun, enjoyable events that are also educational and build cohesion between everyone in the unit. If anyone has any suggestions for events, be it fundraisers, classes, or spouse coffees, just get in touch with either of us via e-mail or phone (since we are both new at this I'm sure there are some good ideas out there).

We are already planning a spouse's coffee for sometime in October and when the date is firmed up we will let you know well in advance. We are also looking at conducting a fundraiser on Saturday, October 15<sup>th</sup> during the Hale Kula Fall Festival at Hale Kula Elementary School. There are also a number of Battalion lead events over the next few months (beach days, coffees, and fundraisers) that you are all more than welcome to participate.

For all upcoming events, we will ensure you are notified well in advance. Many of you have children or other obligations and we want to ensure you have enough time to schedule around other obligations you have and also to work out babysitters. Most events we will sponsor will be absolutely kid friendly, so do not hesitate to bring your children if you would like.

Next, I would like to congratulate some individuals who have recently been promoted in the unit. 1LT Baker was promoted to CPT, SGT Lazos was promoted to SSG, SGT Schneider to SSG, SPC Sosh to SGT, CPL Clark to SGT, PV2 Samuel to PFC and PV1 Coleman to PV2. I would like to thank all of the above and their family members. They are all well-deserving of their promotion and continue to do great things for not only this unit but the Army as a whole. It was also nice to see so many family members attend the promotion ceremony. I would also like to congratulate PVT Farmer on his graduation from the Air Assault Course, he truly made the Hillclimbers proud with his excellent performance throughout a tough and demanding course.

Finally, I again want to thank all Hillclimbers and family members for their continued support both during the deployment and since the return from Afghanistan. I hope you all will come out and help support our Family Readiness Group. I promise you that you will have a good time and get to meet and hang out with a lot of good people.

Sincerely,

Cpt. Sines B/214<sup>th</sup> Avn Regt



## B Co Knighthawks

The month of August has been extremely busy for the Knighthawks. We assumed RED CYCLE on 01AUG05 and have not looked back. From firefighting to Air Assault School support to multiple VIP missions, you name it and the Knighthawks have accomplished it.

During the afternoon of the 3<sup>rd</sup> of August, Bravo Company received the call to fight its and the Battalions first fire since returning from Afghanistan. 1LT Channels and CW2 Katz have nothing to worry about, they have the Golden Bucket Award locked up. On a side note, the Nanakuli fire was Hawaii's largest and costliest fire in the past 15 years.

The remainder of the month of August and the beginning of September, has seen the Knighthawks support a number of additional missions to include: VIP support for the USARPAC Commander, COMPACFL, the CG, the ADC(O) and the ADC(S); rappel, air assault, and slingload training in support of the Air Assault School; and numerous PTA log-runs and SERE training with the United States Air Force. By the end of the month the Company had flown an extensive number of hours and was preparing for the Battalion gunnery that is currently on-going.

Bravo Company would like to announce the promotions of SPCs Ososkie, Ramirez, and Rihn to Sergeant. These

soldiers are more than capable of the added responsibility, however Erickson is aspiring to be like SFC Smith, and that worries us... 1LT Thomas was promoted on 01SEP05 to CPT- they promote anyone these days. They also sent Ramirez and Erickson to PLDC, where SPC Erickson was made a Platoon Sergeant and Ramirez was made the mascot. They both received honors for Academic Excellence. Job well done to you both, you have made all of the Knighthawks proud.

We would also like to say congratulations to SPC Gentry and the former Ms. Foster! They tied the knot on 26 August. Bravo Company would also like to wish Cheyenne a happy 6th birthday... your dad now wants you to get a job.

On a final note, BN Staff has pulled CW2 Chris Katz and Mrs. Katz from us. Good luck to them and their future endeavors, they will be truly missed. All of the Knighthawks hearts and prayers go out to those that have suffered from Hurricane Katrina. Good-luck and God Bless to all involved. And I personally thank anyone that helped contribute in any charitable way to the Hurricane relief effort.

Diamondhead and Wolfpack families:

The face of Charlie Company is finally starting to take hold. There are new soldiers and families reporting to the company every week. SGT Grove and his family were the last of the summer PCS's, and they should be settling down now in Germany. We wish them the best of luck in their new assignment.

I am happy to share that Jayden is home from his three week stay in the hospital for an infection. All of our prayers were answered and he seems to be doing just great. Thank you to all of those who visited and delivered meals to the Lee's during their tough time.

I wanted to use this letter to welcome those families who joined the Wolfpack this summer. I am amazed at the level of professionalism and knowledge these new personnel bring to the team. We are both really excited about the influx of new families. I hope you all choose to be active within the Wolfpack FRG.

The new arrivals are:

2LT Killoran – Arriving from flight school at Ft. Rucker.  
CW3 Hurda and family - Arriving from Ft. Riley along with their son.

CW2 Faraca and family- arriving from Honduras and is joined by his family who were on the mainland while he was in Honduras.

CW2 Jones – Arriving from Ft. Riley along with their three kids.

WO1 Wilson – Arriving from flight school at Ft. Rucker.

WO1 Ecker and family – Arriving from flight school at Ft. Rucker.

WO1 Leimkuhler – Arriving from flight school at Ft. Rucker.

SSG Calmes and family – Arriving from Hunter AAF, Georgia with their sons.

SPC Fulton – Arriving from Ansbach, Germany.

I would like to extend my congratulations to SGT Mitchell in his recent promotion to the NCO ranks. August was an exciting month for SGT Mitchell; his command sponsorship was approved and he was finally joined by his wife and two kids. Other recent promotions include Cpt. Echeverria and Sgt Rubio. Congratulations to all of these great soldiers.

Congratulations to CW3 Hurda for his recent successful completion of the Battalion Pilot in Command Board and his designation as a unit Instructor Pilot. His skill and expertise are greatly needed as we continue to receive new pilots out of flight school who are eager to start their mission training.

Congratulations to our recent Primary Leadership Development Course (PLDC) graduates, SGT Billings, SGT Brodin, SGT Mitchell, and SPC Smith. All successfully navigated the grueling two week course in September.

In October, Charlie Company will assume Red Cycle. This will require the Wolfpack to support external mission requirements for the Division and State of Hawaii. These missions range from logistic runs for other units, to fire-fighting, to VIP missions. There will be designated fire bucket standby crews everyday to include weekends. All the crewmembers have done an excellent job getting ready for this responsibility.

Finally, great work by all those in the Wolfpack. Keep up the hard work as we begin our Red Cycle support.

*Captain Golden, Wolfpack 6*



## Upcoming Events

Oct 7 **Home Alone Safety Class** at ACS 9—2:30  
Call 655-2400 to register

Oct 20 & 27 **7 Habits of Highly Effective Families** ACS  
6—8:30 p.m. Call 655-2400 to register

Oct 22 **Make a Difference Day**

Oct 28 **Spook Fest** ASYMCA Wheeler 6—7:30 p.m.  
for preschoolers; costumers, prizes, small fee

Oct 31 5:30—7:30 p.m. **Trick or Treating** on Post



*CPT Echeverria's wife and grandfather look on as he was promoted to Captain on 1SEP05 at a ceremony on Wheeler Army Airfield*

## D Co Cannibals

As I write this column I am realizing there is no comprehensible way to give due credit to the work and accomplishments of your Soldiers since we were blessed with the privilege of joining the Cannibal family on July 13<sup>th</sup>. We were welcomed warmly and since that day it's been an honor to see and be a part of what these professionals do daily.

Before I became a Cannibal, I had never seen a quality control shop built from the ground up as has been accomplished under the leadership of CW3 Charland and SSG Houser with a lot of hard work and long hours by our new TIs learning the trade. In another AVUM I would have seen multiple repairs work ordered to a Dyncorp team that have instead been accomplished under our own roof with the combat-proven expertise of the Shops Platoon. If I had to perform at the level of our Avionics Mechanics and Electricians, the Army would have long abandoned the stabilator as a Blackhawk component. Equally amazing is Tech Supply's ability to always have the right parts on hand for repairs, walking through high profile requisitions when this is not possible.

The Maintenance Platoon accomplished the first Blackhawk "PMI" inspection performed by Army Soldiers on the airfield. Thorough planning and attention to detail by Team Leader, SPC Carvalho and NCOIC, SGT Fullerton, ensured this inspection was not only successful, but safe and accomplished 50% ahead of schedule. Before I became a Cannibal I would have balked at the idea of maintaining Blackhawk availability for all Task Force missions with one third of the fleet in Reset maintenance. This has been accomplished daily by the talented Production Control shop and hinged

largely on the abilities of SSG Lantero, SGT White, and PFC Sage to unsnarl ULLS-A data for use in maintenance management.

Individuals have also stood out over the past two months. 1LT Fett was promoted to Captain. CW3 is now promotable to CW4. SGT Lantero earned promotion to Staff Sergeant. SPC McDonald, Cover, and Diaz all earned promotions to Sergeant. PFCs Dempe, Velasco, and Valdez are now wearing well-deserved Specialist rank. Finally PV2s Borgeson, Fung, Haury, and Morris have climbed to Private First Class. Congratulations are due to SGTs Gingo, Jackson, Bronson, Cover, Diaz, and Knapp along with SPCs Christopher and Praylow for graduating PLDC. SGT Diaz stands out from the crowd by earning his place on the Commandant's List. SGT Placencia earned Task Force honors as the NCO of the quarter. SSG Bayona reenlisted- thank you SSG and Mrs. Bayona for committing to the Army as a career.

I will close this month's column by asking for you to wish good luck and blessings to MSG Owensby, and SPC Richardson in recovering from their surgeries. We hope to see PV2 Edwards back soon from his hospital stay. We also wish safe travels for SFC Wayne and Bennett from Savannah with their family.

Outta Control!



*Delta Change of Command*



## HHC Talons

Talons, you make me proud with your recent achievements. Two highlights for the Talons are CW4 Tatrow's final flight and Talon day on Schofield East Range. CW4 Tommy Tatrow highlighted his career with a final flight ceremony that was memorable. As he returned to the flight line with cheers



and applause, he was doused with water from the Wheeler Army Airfield Fire Department. He and his wife, were valued members of Diamondhead and the FRG. Mr. Tatrow moved to Wichita, Kansas where he now operates a medical evacuation helicopter for a local hospital.



Talon Day was a training event on 25 August 2005 on East Range that incorporated refueling operations, medical training, and Field Feeding unit operations. Selected soldiers convoyed to East Range and operated a Forward Area Refueling Point led by 1LT Mann and SSG Tuatoo. The refuelers continue to set the standard by setting up a safe and operation site within one hour. Congruent to the refueling operations, SSG Hanevold and SSG Jennings set up the containerized kitchen and served hot meals to the participants and observers. Their hard work added more sunshine to an already sun filled day. SSG Pulley and SGT Gouridine conducted refresher medical



training after lunch. Their training recertified three combat lifesavers and provided a medical refresher for several other soldiers in attendance.

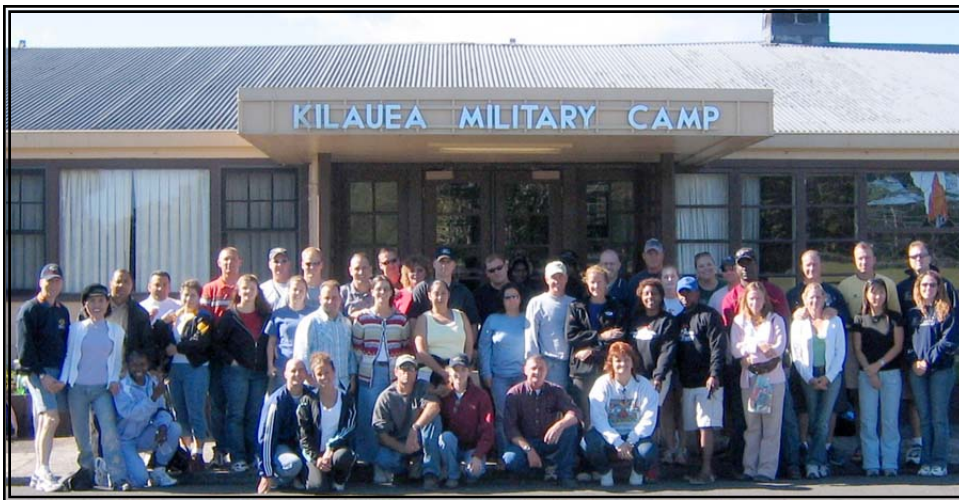
Thank you to all the Talon families that enable our soldiers to continue success in Hawaii. The time that you sacrifice to make training events for future deployments like this happen is noticed and appreciated. As we approach the Holiday Season, I hope that each and every one of you can afford to take time out of your busy lives and spend it with your favorite Talon Soldier.

CAPTAIN YIENGST  
TALONS!

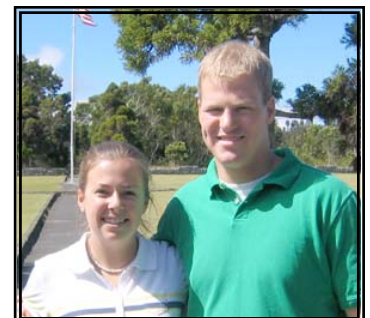




## More Wings of Lightning Photos



## Marriage Retreat on the Big Island



## ***Diamondhead Spouse's Reaction Course***

**WHO:** Spouses of Diamondhead soldiers

**WHAT:** Problem solving based obstacle course. Scenarios require more thought than brawn and are not extremely physically based.

**WHEN:** October 13th at 1000.

**WHERE:** Lyman Road across from Bowen Park

**WHY:** Build teams and have a good time

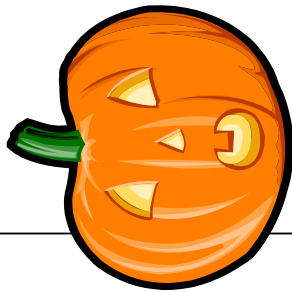
**Let your FRG Leader know if you can attend.**



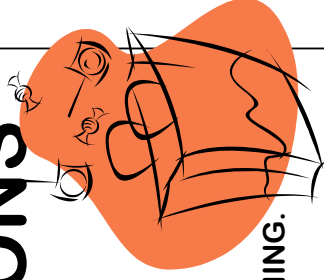
**DIAMONDHEAD**



# HALLOWEEN TRICK OR TREAT HOURS & SAFETY PRECAUTIONS



## 31 OCT 1730 – 1930



- CHILDREN 10 & UNDER REQUIRE AN ADULT ESCORT.

LIGHT COLORED CLOTHING OR TO SEW REFLECTORS ON DARK CLOTHING.

- ADVISE CHILDREN TO USE CROSSWALKS

WAIT FOR THE PROPER TRAFFIC SIGNALS

- LOOK BOTH WAYS BEFORE CROSSING THE STREET

- WATCH OUT FOR CARS TURNING AT INTERSECTIONS AND LEAVING OR ENTERING DRIVEWAYS

- STAY ON THE SIDEWALK WHENEVER POSSIBLE IF THERE IS NO SIDEWALK, WALK ON THE LEFT SIDE OF THE ROADWAY FACING TRAFFIC

- NEVER ENTER VEHICLES OR HOMES WHEN INVITED BY A STRANGER.

- TRIPLER ARMY MEDICAL CENTER (MAIN HOSPITAL), RADIOLOGY DEPT. WILL BE OPEN TO

X-RAY CANDY ON

31 OCT FROM 8 PM TO 10 PM AND AGAIN ON TUESDAY FROM 1PM TO 6PM

**U.S. ARMY GARRISON, HAWAII**



## Island Orientation Tour

The Replacement Detachment (in conjunction with ACS) has been charged with executing a Newcomer's Island Tour. This tour occurs every Friday and Soldiers should attend on the Friday immediately following their release from the Replacement Detachment. This tour is the culminating event in a Soldier's welcome to the Division and spouses are highly encouraged to attend as well. This activity begins with briefings from the ACS Staff on the various services they offer, followed by a tour of Schofield Barracks which highlights key facilities/service organizations and climaxes with a tour of historical locations on Oahu. Having Soldiers and families receive this First Class experience pays great dividends for the Command as it ensures newcomers are armed with the knowledge of, and locations for, the basic services/organizations required for a smooth transition to Hawaii.

The contracted buses are scheduled to depart the ACS building NLT 0815 on Fridays. Inprocessing Soldiers are asked to report to ACS NLT 0730 to receive the ACS brief.

